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Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 49/38 B of 9 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its seventeenth session and to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in that resolution.

2. In this connection, the following documents were submitted to the Committee on Information at its seventeenth session, held from 1 to 12 May 1995: 1/ (a) report of the Secretary-General on the allocation of resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to United Nations information centres in 1994 (A/AC.198/1995/2) and (b) report of the Secretary-General on the review of publications by the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/1995/3). The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information provided supplementary information in a statement delivered to the Committee at that session.

3. The present report is intended to update information previously provided and focus on the policies and strategies utilized by the Department of Public Information in accordance with resolution 49/38 B and the directives of the Secretary-General. The annex contains a list of information products issued, as well as other major activities of the Department during the reporting period.

II. OVERVIEW

4. It is increasingly apparent that the world Organization finds itself working in a new communications age defined by rapidly changing political environments, equally swift technological developments, unprecedented budget pressures on major contributing countries, and the rising power and world-wide reach of the media. In this new global climate, the involvement of the United Nations in some of the most pressing issues of our time has taken an unprecedented scope, and subjected it to a media spotlight few would have predicted several years ago. Today, with public interest in the Organization at an all-time high, public information has assumed significantly greater importance.

5. The most pressing task faced by the Department of Public Information is to ensure that the centrality of the United Nations in meeting the compelling challenges faced by the international community continues to be widely recognized by Governments and the world public at large, including in particular the influential non-official actors emerging on the world stage. To accomplish this goal efficiently and cost-effectively, the Department has assigned the highest priority to close working relations within the Secretariat and the United Nations system and to outreach efforts beyond; to the use of new technologies; and to the creation of information strategies and programmes that mutually reinforce the idea - and the reality - of a United Nations system working vigorously and in unison for the betterment of human welfare.

Building partnerships with key groups

6. The Department seeks to reach public opinion within every stratum of global society. Thus, it is strengthening partnerships not only with the media and educational institutions but also with policy- and opinion-influencing groups such as think-tanks, the civic and business communities, city governments and non-governmental organizations which are mobilizing support at both the official and the grass-roots levels. Since many of these new forces are nationally and regionally oriented, the role of the Department's vital network of information centres and services is also being strengthened.

Ensuring a cohesive approach to the issues

7. The framework for the Department's work programme is established by the General Assembly through the Committee on Information, in important initiatives of the Secretary-General such as An Agenda for Peace and An Agenda for Development and in the conclusions reached as a result of the cycle of world conferences now under way. Instead of fashioning a multitude of messages on all issues before the Organization, the Department has concentrated its efforts on a carefully selected list of priorities and prepared a coordinated information strategy in which each message links with and reinforces all the others. Therefore, even as the Department strengthens its capacity to win support for peace-keeping operations in both host countries and troop-contributing nations, and more sharply communicates the commitment of the United Nations to promote development and development cooperation, these concerns will be projected in the context of the Organization's central message: the continuity that exists between peace, development and democratization.

Speaking with a unified voice

8. In carrying out its programme, the Department has sought to project an image of unity for the United Nations system. The Department is consulting more closely with other Secretariat departments, expanding communication with the regional commissions and working with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies through the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to ensure that the achievements of all parts of the United Nations family are projected to their respective audiences. United Nations information centres and services, which cooperate closely with other United Nations offices in the field, are particularly important in this regard. All of these various relationships have proved especially fruitful in connection with United Nations conferences, for which the Department has collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and others in promoting the idea of an inter-linked continuum of major events in the field of economic and social development. Perhaps most important, the Department is also seeking to raise awareness throughout the system, especially in those areas that have not been directly involved in carrying out public information activities, about the need to build an information and communications component into all work programmes from their very inception.

Exploiting the potential of electronic communication

9. The Department has moved aggressively to exploit the enormous outreach and exchange of information that electronic communication now offers. The Department's electronic database is the largest within the United Nations system, with tens of thousands of users accessing the database daily through the INTERNET and the World Wide Web (WWW). The Department has also updated its electronic communication and distribution system connecting Headquarters with United Nations information centres and services, as well as with peace-keeping operations, offices of UNDP, United Nations offices and other redisseminators. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has enhanced its capacity to provide information electronically through user-friendly on-line access and CD-ROM format. The United Nations News Audio Information System, operational 24 hours a day, provides consolidated and updated news about the United Nations in three languages by means of a single telephone call. The Publications Service has increased its productivity - and its creativity - through use of desktop publishing hardware and related software applications.

10. These new technologies have become a powerful medium for the dissemination of information, and are already being used widely by major United Nations target groups. Still, with advanced technological capacity somewhat limited in many regions, the Department remains mindful of its obligation to ensure global access to its outputs and outreach efforts. Moreover, the emphasis on electronic dissemination will not diminish the continuing need for carefully targeted, high-quality publications, which provide in-depth information with long-term impact.

11. As called for in paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 49/38 B, the management of the Department has held regular consultations with the extended Bureau of the Committee on Information, which have provided an invaluable channel of dialogue for the Department in all areas of its work. This dialogue has created an atmosphere of transparency, cooperation and mutual responsibility for the implementation of the mandates entrusted to the Department by the General Assembly.

12. In the intensely competitive environments in which ever greater numbers of actors seek to influence opinion, the Department has consistently conveyed the message that all United Nations activities on its agenda are - and are seen to be - efficiently promoting human welfare and democratic freedoms and responsive to the dynamic political and economic currents of our day. The positive results achieved during the reporting period have come about through the mobilization and creative utilization of the Department's principal resource, its staff, and through the streamlining of operational machinery, both at Headquarters and at information centres and services. As reaffirmed in resolution 49/38 B, the Department has strengthened its role as the focal point for public information tasks within the United Nations system.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ONGOING FUNCTIONS

13. In compliance with the mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 49/38 B, in particular in the second preambular paragraph, the Department has continued its efforts to ensure that the public information tasks of the United Nations "are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the priority areas defined by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information". Emphasis has been given in all its activities to promoting an informed understanding of the work of the Organization, commensurate with its new tasks, and fostering the positive image of the system as a whole.

14. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General is the main point of contact with media representatives covering the United Nations, particularly those accredited at Headquarters. With world-wide media attention on the Organization, and especially on the Secretary-General, at unprecedented levels, the daily briefings given by the Spokesman, as well as the increasingly large number of one-on-one contacts by his Office with the world's media, have assumed greater importance. The Office is also responsible for arranging interviews with the Secretary-General, and various media contacts such as interviews and background briefings with senior United Nations officials. Thus, the provision of authoritative and timely information in the fields of peace-keeping and peacemaking and humanitarian assistance, and on a wide range of economic and social issues, is essential in helping the media to reflect comprehensively and accurately the role of the Organization in all areas of its mandates and responsibilities. In carrying out this crucial task, the Office of the Spokesman has established a close working relationship with all divisions of the Department.

15. The Assistant Secretary-General and the senior management of the Department, for their part, have strengthened their contacts with senior international media officials. Such links are made stronger through the Department's Media Division, which accredits, promotes contact with and facilitates the daily work of members of the media. Its services include: (a) alerting news media to meetings and other proceedings and providing access to these events; (b) offering group briefings for visiting journalists; (c) providing offices and other work space; and (d) giving technical advice to broadcasting organizations. During the reporting period, the Division provided services to 2,900 permanently accredited and 2,500 temporarily accredited media representatives at Headquarters. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, more than 20,000 media representatives have been accredited by the United Nations for conferences held away from Headquarters.

16. The Media Division consolidates press and photographic information materials, radio and television coverage and programmes, and technical services. The production of press releases in both working languages of the Secretariat - an activity for which the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/38 B, paragraph 19, expressed its full support - has been expanded. In 1995, for the first time, an annual compilation of Security Council resolutions and President's statements was produced. In compliance with paragraph 20 of resolution 49/38 B, the Division is increasing its outreach potential to

audiences of more than 1,800 broadcasting organizations by radio programme production in 15 official and other languages. For example, radio programmes in Portuguese and Hindi alone are rebroadcast by 168 stations. Monthly radio production of more than 700 news bulletins, updates, features, documentaries, interviews and regional news magazines has been refocused to disseminate more information on the new priorities of the Organization. To ensure a wider audience for information about the United Nations in a cost-efficient manner, the Media Division has established a partnership with Time-Warner Cable of Manhattan, Inc. The first eight in an ongoing series of 30-second "question and answer" public service announcements have been produced for broadcast on the Time-Warner Cable system and are being actively distributed to broadcasters in other countries. The Division is also researching the use of compact discs for the dissemination of transcription radio programmes.

17. The Department is actively exploring with a number of international broadcasting organizations the possibility of providing transmission service for United Nations radio programming, and it is expected that the Department will receive the active support of Member States in further developing this option. The Department continues to foster strong working relationships with international broadcasting organizations such as Cable News Network (CNN) International, Reuters International and World Wide Television News, which distribute United Nations programmes to all parts of the world. The Associated Press TV and other syndicators receive and distribute daily feeds of UNTV video package highlights. The Division has also carried out a pilot project of transmitting by satellite its popular end-of-the-year video programme "Year in Review", a programme that reaches an estimated target audience of 350 million households.

18. The Department has been striving to follow industry standard technologies to deliver information products of the highest broadcasting quality. Furthermore, the Department is in the process of laying the groundwork for a future tapeless archival system that is fully networked and that possesses a quick delivery mechanism for use with broadcasters world wide. The Media Division has established a transmission system for audio recordings through the Integrated System of Digital Network (ISDN) to the International Broadcast Centre (IBC), an arrangement guaranteeing full high-quality audio broadcast of statements by the Secretary-General away from Headquarters and other important events. In addition, a CD-system for the electronic storage, reproduction and dissemination of photos will be introduced.

19. During the first six months of 1995, 1,112,042 pages of documents and publications were disseminated electronically by the Department's Information Centres Service. An average of 20,000 users daily accessed the Department's database of United Nations information materials on the INTERNET, which is now the largest in the United Nations family. Currently, the Department serves six publicly accessible databases, which themselves serve as important redisseminators of United Nations information. With the ceremony at San Francisco on 26 June, commemorating the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, the Department took a bold new step on the information superhighway by launching the UN Home Page on the World Wide Web, which integrates images with text. This move into the fastest growing area of the INTERNET is expected to increase the usage of United Nations materials, particularly among younger

audiences. Since its inception, the UN Home Page has been accessed daily by an average of 5,000 users.

20. The Department, through its Promotion and Public Services Division, is focusing on the education of the world's youth, as its future constituents. One upcoming product for younger audiences, to be released in 1995 in as many languages as possible, is a guide to the Charter of the United Nations in question-and-answer format entitled "The Charter at your fingertips".

21. Since the inauguration of the guided tours in 1952, nearly 35 million people have visited United Nations Headquarters to learn first-hand about the world Organization. Recently, stops on the tour route that had been temporarily off-limits, such as the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council, were restored. However, certain security considerations have had to be taken into account, including a limit on the size of groups. On display in the Public Lobby is a multi-media exhibit commemorating the fiftieth anniversary. In another new development marking the occasion, the tour guides have been provided with distinctive new uniforms.

22. To keep the community of non-governmental organizations associated with the Department abreast of proceedings at the United Nations, and to generate support at the grass-roots level, the Division organizes weekly briefings that attract some 200 representatives of non-governmental organizations and that constitute a valuable opportunity for regular dialogue with an important corps of activists on United Nations-related issues. Senior United Nations officials and experts, delegates in their capacity as chairpersons of intergovernmental committees, and others involved in major United Nations conferences address representatives of non-governmental organizations and respond to their questions. A weekly newsletter, DPI/NGO Link, containing information on events at Headquarters and announcing new print and video materials, was initiated in 1995 for distribution at the briefings. Monthly mailings of selected United Nations publications are sent to some 1,500 non-governmental organizations throughout the world. The Department also maintains an NGO Resource Centre, where associated non-governmental organizations can access United Nations documents as well as publications issued by the Department of Public Information. Computer work-stations are being installed in the Centre in order to provide users with access to the United Nations "Home Page" and other United Nations databases on the INTERNET.

23. The forty-eighth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations was held in September 1995 on the theme "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues; global actors; global responsibility". The Conference, attended by more than 1,300 representatives, examined the changing role and increasing participation of civil society in the formulation and implementation of programmes of action agreed upon during major United Nations conferences and summits. Participants identified common issues linking these conferences and discussed the increased opportunities for partnership between the United Nations system and the NGO community.

24. In compliance with the mandate to continue briefing and orientation programmes for broadcasters from developing countries, the 1995 training programme was conducted from 18 September to 26 October, with journalists from

the following countries: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. The participants undertook practical exercises under the supervision of the relevant divisions of the Department of Public Information and attended briefings by United Nations officials and representatives of media organizations.

25. The Library and Publications Division continues to prepare and manage the Department's publications, oversee the United Nations publications programme and provide library services through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and related facilities. The Division's graphic design and cartographic sections provide services not only to the Department of Public Information but also to other departments and the regional commissions. A new effort is being made to identify the potential of electronic publishing.

26. As in recent years, the Department's major books and periodicals offered extensive coverage of the work of the United Nations in all its aspects, with a special focus on the 1992-1996 conference cycle. Emphasis was also placed on special commemorations such as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and on subjects of ongoing priority interest such as peace-keeping, sustainable economic and social development, human rights, decolonization and Africa. Several of these issues have been covered in the United Nations Blue Books Series, which was introduced during the reporting period.

27. With the Sales and Marketing Section having been transferred to the Department as of 1 September 1995, the Department is taking additional steps to strengthen its marketing and sales of system-wide publications, in which works produced by the Secretariat and other parts of the United Nations are sold through a network of agents, distributors and bookstores in more than 65 countries. These efforts were marked by the increased availability of some products in additional formats such as microfiche and CD-ROM.

28. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library is embarking on a programme of technological innovation through the introduction of an Integrated Library Management System (ILMS), which will enhance its ability to maintain its archival collection of United Nations documents and publications and to provide bibliographic control. The Library maintains the United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS), a variety of bibliographic, factual, thesaurus and full-text databases that is currently accessed on-line by 91 Governments and 86 permanent missions. These databases have also been available since March 1995 as UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM. As a further effort to make United Nations documents widely available, the Library is assisting in the reorganization of documentation posted on the UNDP INTERNET server. The Library, in cooperation with the Electronic Services Division of the Secretariat and other offices of the Department of Public Information, is also involved in the planning of the United Nations World Wide Web Service. More broadly, the Library is increasingly reliant on electronic resources for use at all service points. A total of 71 on-line and CD-ROM databases produced by United Nations offices, specialized agencies and commercial firms are currently available, including Lexis/Nexis, Dialog (on-line), Facts on File News Digest, Keesing's Record of World Events and Legal

Trac (CD-ROM). The Library has also made advances in electronic desktop delivery and has been disseminating journals electronically, as they are published.

29. Through its system of 347 depository libraries in 140 Member States, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library disseminates information about the Organization and its activities. The Library oversees the depository libraries through a programme of visits and training. The Library has also continued its programme of training government officials, delegates, non-governmental organization representatives and staff members in the use of United Nations documentation and information resources produced by or available within the Library. At the United Nations Congress on Public International Law, held in New York from 13 to 17 March 1995, the Library enhanced its outreach activities by preparing a bibliography covering publications of interest to the participants. The Library also arranged an on-site book exhibit with major publishers in the field of international law displaying publications relevant to the theme of the Congress.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION PROGRAMMES MANDATED UNDER PARAGRAPH 2 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 49/38 B OF 9 DECEMBER 1994

30. The Promotion and Public Services Division is responsible for the development of thematically integrated information programmes on priority issues and, within these programmes, for a variety of information products, including publications, for outreach activities directed towards the media, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the general public, as well as for the organization of special promotional events.

A. Sustainable economic and social development in the overall context of "An Agenda for Development"

31. Since January 1994, the bimonthly newsletter Development Update has closely covered the preparations for, and outcomes of, the current cycle of United Nations conferences in the field of economic and social development and expanded its brief to provide an overview of United Nations activities and publications in the development sphere. It includes reports on follow-up activities to the 1990 Children's Summit, the 1992 Earth Summit, the 1994 Population Conference and the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as on preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). There has been feature coverage of the Secretary-General's reports on "An Agenda for Development" and related discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Development Update, which is receiving an increasingly positive response from its readership, is also covering the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations; United Nations human rights initiatives; economic reports and forecasts issued by United Nations bodies and agencies; international telecommunications agreements; transnational crime; conventions on desertification, biodiversity and the sea; and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's world

trade summit. The text is enlivened by interviews with key officials in the economic and social fields.

32. In view of the continuing priority of Africa's economic recovery and development, the Department continues to implement an information programme guided by the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Department's efforts emphasize both the severity and the singularity of the crisis affecting the world's most impoverished continent and, at the same time, highlight the efforts and successes of numerous African countries in reinvigorating the development process. The central element of this information programme is the quarterly periodical Africa Recovery, which, along with briefing papers and other publications, focuses on economic and social issues of special concern to Africa and underscores the links between the peace-keeping, humanitarian and developmental activities of the United Nations in Africa. The Africa Recovery publications continue to have an important impact on their target audience of international and African media, policy makers and the academic, research and NGO communities. Radio production on issues of particular interest to the African region is currently being reviewed in order to broaden its scope and focus in view of the additional staff resources that have been redeployed from the discontinued anti-apartheid programme.

33. The Department is providing an extensive range of information support activities to the secretariat of the Commission for Sustainable Development, as follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and with regard to the United Nations conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification. The publication, in three languages, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, has been helpful for information activities undertaken at the grass-roots level. The results of the final session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, in particular the international agreement adopted in August 1995, were the subject of an information kit that was sent to some 800 specialized media and non-governmental organizations.

34. The Department implemented a campaign that produced extensive publicity for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 28 April to 8 May 1995. The public information strategy called for building on the success - in terms of substance as well as publicity - of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held at Naples, Italy, in 1994. Owing to the broad, multidisciplinary nature of the Congress, thematic issues included the importance of criminal justice systems to protect the environment, the role of the mass media in crime prevention, urban crime and violence prevention strategies, links between crime and migration, as well as terrorism and organized crime. The Department's backgrounders on transnational crime were referred to by The Times of London and the Christian Science Monitor, and reprinted verbatim in a full-page spread in the Mexican newsweekly Proceso, with positive attention given to the work of the United Nations in this area. Broadcast coverage included CNN, WCBS Radio, the Middle East Broadcast Centre and a large number of Japanese, European and Arab broadcasting organizations.

B. Peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building in the pursuit of the Organization's new responsibilities

35. At the initiative of the Assistant Secretary-General, an interdepartmental Working Group on Media Strategies for Peace-keeping and other Field Operations has been established. The Group, which includes representatives of the Departments of Peace-keeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs, Political Affairs and Public Information, holds consultations on a regular basis in order to enhance cooperation and coordination with regard to the information component of peace-keeping and other United Nations operations. Key areas include developing information strategies appropriate to the objectives of missions, establishing a roster of personnel to carry out the various functions related to the strategy, and identifying other related requirements. In addition, through these and other interdepartmental consultations, the Department has continued to refine a set of standards it has developed for mission information components.

36. The Department has continued to provide comprehensive information about United Nations peace-keeping and peacemaking to the media, educational and research institutions, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public. These materials, prepared in close consultation with the substantive offices concerned, reflect the complex nature of the current integrated operations. Publications issued during the reporting period included a poster on peace-keeping and peacemaking, a twice-yearly collection of in-depth reviews of all current peace-keeping operations and a reference paper series on peace-keeping missions. All publications are distributed widely at Headquarters and globally through the network of United Nations information centres and services, peace-keeping missions, non-governmental organizations and research institutions. In recognition of the increasing relevance of information on peace-keeping, and marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization, the Department has produced a one-hour documentary on peace-keeping, entitled "No Place to Hide", narrated by Mr. Brian Urquhart. Given the special relevance and timeliness of the subject, the programme has been well-received by major broadcasters and cable networks.

37. As mandated by the General Assembly in 1993, the third edition of The Blue Helmets is near completion and will be issued during the Assembly's fiftieth session. In addition, the Promotion and Public Services Division has cooperated with the Centre for Disarmament Affairs in the preparation of public information materials related to intergovernmental meetings on disarmament issues, including the Review and Extension Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

38. The distinct advantages of broadcast radio information have been clearly demonstrated in critical peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance operations. In some situations, radio broadcasts have represented the only reliable source of information about United Nations peace-keeping missions for the population at large. The development of a central United Nations broadcasting facility has, therefore, become one of the principal issues in the continuing discussions between the Department of Public Information and substantive departments in the context of the new interdepartmental consultative mechanism for information strategies for peace-keeping and other field missions.

39. The Division's activities relating to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine included a seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, the publication of books, pamphlets and other information materials and the production of audiovisual materials. A training programme for a group of Palestinian journalists has been scheduled by the Department at Headquarters from 2 October to 30 November 1995 in order to strengthen Palestinian media capability.

C. Human rights and humanitarian relief activities, highlighting the emerging role of the Organization

40. The Department's information programme for human rights aims at promoting understanding and awareness of human rights and the work of the United Nations in this area. It builds on the momentum generated by the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, as well as by the 1988 World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, and focuses on the three current decades related to human rights: United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2003) and Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2002).

41. The multimedia programme of print, television and radio products includes promotional activities undertaken by the Department both at Headquarters and at Geneva, as well as at the national and regional levels by United Nations information centres and services, particularly in observance of Human Rights Day, 10 December. In 1994, the observance focused on the launch of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. As part of the 1995 programme, the Department is organizing a number of seminars for international journalists to highlight key human rights issues. One of the seminars will be held at Headquarters during the discussion by the General Assembly of human rights issues. Another will be held in a major European city around the time of Human Rights Day. A series of in-depth articles on these key issues, including judicial independence, the right to development, violence against women, the sale and prostitution of children, ethnic conflict and racial discrimination is being prepared for use by the media in connection with these seminars and for broader distribution as well. The Department is also producing a number of innovative print products designed primarily for use by schools and non-governmental organizations. Special articles have also been produced on human rights issues for use by the media and non-governmental organizations in connection with the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. United Nations information centres and services continue to perform a valuable role in disseminating human rights information to local key audiences.

V. PROMOTION OF MAJOR CONFERENCES

42. The development of information campaigns for major United Nations conferences is one of the major functions of the Promotion and Public Services Division. Central to the strategies for these conferences is the concept that each forms part of a continuum and contributes to the incremental progress in shaping the consensus of the international community on major issues in the field of economic and social development. The Department has established focal points for these conferences to formulate public information strategies and programmes in close cooperation with substantive departments and offices. These focal points manage both the preparations for and the information operation at each conference in a coherent manner in order to meet the needs of the media and present a unified message. The information campaigns all have the objective of increasing public awareness of the issues, broadening substantive knowledge and mobilizing greater political support and resources for action.

43. Critical to the success of the information component of every conference is inter-agency cooperation, which entails, among other things, the establishment of task forces and a focus on selected issues. For example, inter-agency collaboration in implementing the information strategy for the World Summit for Social Development was extensive both during the lead-up to the Summit and during the event itself. Activities were coordinated through regular meetings of the inter-agency Working Group on Information Activities for the Summit, chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General, which helped ensure that JUNIC members were kept well informed and were able to contribute fully to the media campaign. The success of this campaign in generating interest in and coverage of the World Summit was noted by the Committee on Information at its seventeenth session.

44. Beginning with the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the Department has actively extended its outreach by coordinating the posting of materials relating to United Nations conferences on the INTERNET and on the World Wide Web. For example, at the Social Summit, the DPI team uploaded 373 speeches and press releases into the UNDP Gopher database through an INTERNET link at the Summit. As an experimental service, a daily "photo gallery" was established on the INTERNET through WWW: each day, about seven colour photos were chosen, captioned, scanned and uploaded. With a computer, a modem and the necessary software, these pictures could be accessed through WWW and downloaded for free use. Demand for this kind of service is expected to grow substantially, as is evidenced by the fact that more than 8,500 WWW file retrievals were recorded during the Summit.

45. For the follow-up to the Summit, an information strategy is being developed in collaboration with inter-agency partners, focusing on the eradication of poverty, one of the major themes of the Summit and the subject of the international year to be observed in 1996. A task force has been established to coordinate inter-agency activities. In preparation for the launch of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, in December 1995, the Department is preparing a number of information products, including a brochure on the aims and purposes of the Year and an extensive in-depth backgrounder on the issues. A number of United Nations information centres have held follow-up briefings for media and non-governmental organizations on the outcome of the

Summit. At the request of the United Nations Population Fund, the Department is producing a series of radio programmes as a follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development for world wide distribution in the official and other languages.

46. For the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the Department used all means available to promote the priority areas identified by the Conference. In addition to mainstream media and media focusing primarily on women's issues, the Department targeted communities and non-governmental organizations at the grass-roots level, educational and cultural institutions and intergovernmental and parliamentary bodies. A specialized mailing list of well over 1,200 media organizations and non-governmental organizations for periodic mailing of information material and conference documents was compiled. The Department's information campaign was aimed at highlighting women's important contributions to society, identifying the major obstacles they face and encouraging renewed political commitment to the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000. An inter-agency task force, headed by the Department, coordinated activities on various aspects of promotion and coverage of the Conference. United Nations agencies and programmes, including UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization contributed to the series of feature articles, Focus on Women. In addition, an inter-agency exhibit, produced by the Department to highlight the issues before the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, was displayed at the Conference site in Beijing.

47. Funds were provided to several United Nations information centres for producing and disseminating conference-related public information materials in local languages. Camera-ready copies of information products were made available to Governments and non-governmental organizations for local reproduction. The Department was a co-sponsor of the second edition of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics, which included new sections on women and the media and women in peace-keeping. Audiovisual products were made available to broadcasting organizations in Member States through United Nations information centres and services. The Department also produced an edition of Notes for Speakers devoted to the advancement of women.

48. To achieve the greatest impact in a cost-efficient manner in connection with the dissemination of information in advance of the Conference, "UN in Action" programmes on subjects related to women, a 35-minute video compilation on the advancement of women and television public service announcements were packaged in Arabic, English, French and Spanish for easy use by broadcasters. The public service announcements have also been made available in Chinese and Russian. A series of 10 special radio programmes on major issues on the Conference agenda was produced and disseminated world wide. The Department also entered into a co-production partnership with a number of major broadcasters and foundations to produce a two-hour programme highlighting the achievements of women in five countries. The programme, "Voices of Change", had its premiere at

the Beijing Conference. Owing to the extraordinary media interest in the Conference, the Department organized a series of encounters in New York, New Delhi, London, Accra and, prior to the opening of the Conference, in Beijing, to bring together regional and national media, NGO representatives and senior Conference officials.

49. Preparations are under way for implementing the information programme for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996. The overall strategy includes a multimedia information campaign undertaken by the Department in close cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the host Government and JUNIC partners, encompassing a number of different products and activities targeting the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and local authorities. Production has begun on some of the printed material such as a brochure and an information kit. Work is also under way on the preparation of radio and television programmes. Information centres will undertake activities to publicize the Conference through round tables, press briefings, the production of printed materials in local languages and other activities. The Department participated in the first planning mission to Istanbul in order to assess the facilities being provided and develop plans for Conference coverage. The Department was represented at the Second Preparatory Committee meeting, held at Nairobi, and assisted with press coverage and publicity for the meeting.

VI. PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

50. The Department's activities in the publishing area are designed to reflect the vitality of United Nations involvement in the major issues and challenges that confront the international community today. The outputs thus range from definitive, authoritative reference works such as the Yearbook of the United Nations and the Blue Books Series to more popular guides and educational products such as Basic Facts about the United Nations, and from quarterly periodicals such as the UN Chronicle and Africa Recovery to more frequent, timely offerings such as Development Update and Development Business. In this way, all United Nations constituencies and audiences can find out what they need to know about any given issue from both short-term and long-term perspectives. Operationally, publishing activities have benefited enormously from the expansion of desktop publishing capacity, as designers, editors, writers, managers and other users have raised productivity, cut costs and experienced greater creative freedom. With such gains, the Department has been able to produce higher-quality publications, which are being sold to the public. The transfer of the Sales and Marketing Section to the Department is another important boost in this respect, ensuring as it will the closest possible relationship between the development and production of the Department's major publications and their effective marketing around the world. The enhanced electronic production capacity has also been complemented by increased efforts to broaden outreach through electronic means. The Department's products are increasingly being made available through networks such as INTERNET and through other electronic redisseminators.

51. In compliance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/38 B, the Department has continued to ensure the timely production and dissemination of its major publications, in particular the UN Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations and Africa Recovery. All major United Nations activities and events of priority to the international community, including the cycle of conferences, are comprehensively covered by the UN Chronicle. A major promotional effort to restore a significant subscriber base to the French edition of the UN Chronicle is under way through the Geneva Sales Unit, which targeted 17,000 potential new subscribers with the March 1995 issue, and an additional 12,000 with the September 1995 issue. The Geneva Sales Unit is also involved in promoting the English edition in Europe, initially targeting 13,000 additional subscribers.

52. The United Nations Publications Board has been reinvigorated to guide publications activities on the issues most relevant to the United Nations by better utilizing the wealth of information uniquely available within the Organization and by the elimination of duplication. In this regard, the Publications Board, under the chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, has become instrumental in ensuring "that all publications fulfil an identifiable need", as called for in paragraph 7 of resolution 49/38 B. During the reporting period, the Board has reviewed the publications programme of the United Nations as a whole for the biennium 1996-1997. The activities of the Board have focused on a wide range of issues, including attribution of authorship in United Nations publications, free distribution vis-à-vis sales distribution of publications, guidelines for electronic dissemination of information and CD-ROM productions. On the latter subject, the Working Group on Electronic Publishing recently completed the preparation of a CD-ROM Publication Guide for distribution throughout the United Nations system as a how-to guide to publishing in this format.

53. In the past year, the Department began publication of the Blue Books Series, a major innovation in the publications programme, representing a first effort to capture in single volumes the vital role the United Nations has played in peace-keeping and other major issues of concern to the international community. This authoritative series provides primary United Nations research and reference materials for policy makers, academics, journalists and others interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the work of the United Nations in all its diverse aspects. By the end of August 1995, seven Blue Books had been published, covering the Organization's involvement in the struggle against apartheid, in peace-keeping operations in Cambodia, El Salvador and Mozambique, and the pivotal role of the United Nations in nuclear non-proliferation, the advancement of women and human rights. Each of the Blue Books contains all the key documents pertaining to a particular issue and an extensive introduction by the Secretary-General. A number of leading international book publishers have expressed strong interest in taking over the publication of this series. The publishing plan calls for each book in the series to appear in all six official languages.

54. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library manages a substantial programme of recurrent and ad hoc publications. These include a series of indexes to United Nations documents: UNDOC: Current Index (issued quarterly with annual cumulation on microfiche) and the Indexes to Proceedings of the General Assembly, the Security

Council and the Economic and Social Council. Among other publications, the most significant are the recently revised manual United Nations Documentation: A Brief Guide and the amended Instructions for Depository Libraries.

55. With regard to a system-wide publication on development issues, the Joint United Nations Information Committee, at its twenty-first session in July 1995, considered a report prepared by the Department of Public Information as called for in paragraph 6 of resolution 49/38 B. Three possible approaches were put forward, including: (a) continuing and building upon Development Update; (b) revival of the World Development Supplement; and (c) development of a new publication. JUNIC agreed to look further into the feasibility of a new system-wide publication on development and decided to convene an ad hoc session in early 1996 to discuss this and other outstanding issues. JUNIC requested that the Department prepare and disseminate a comprehensive proposal on the issue.

56. In July 1995, the Department and the World Bank agreed to co-produce the twice-monthly publication Development Business on development bank and United Nations procurement. This newspaper serves the needs of Member States, international development banks and others interested in monitoring and bidding on development projects. The Department of Public Information and the World Bank are taking a multimedia approach to their new joint venture that combines an on-line information service with the printed word and a weekly facsimile service. The new joint effort is expected to broaden the dissemination of development project information.

57. As a concise account of the Organization's work and contributions to major issues facing the international community, the Department's Publications Service produced a new edition of Basic Facts about the United Nations, in English, French and Spanish. Responding to the needs of various audiences, particularly the media and non-governmental organizations, the Service also introduced an important new publication, entitled A Guide to Information at the United Nations. The Guide is designed to provide easier access to the wealth of information produced by the entire United Nations system.

58. The Department's work in the field of cartographic services is directed towards the preparation of interpretive and illustrative maps for briefing purposes and various publications, including the UN Chronicle. More than 400 maps have been provided to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the offices of the regional commissions and United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as to external publishers. Substantial efforts are being made to enhance the preparation of computer-generated maps and the ability to handle digital cartographic files.

VII. UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES

59. The importance attached by Member States "to the role of United Nations information centres in effectively and comprehensively disseminating information, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, about United Nations activities" is recognized in paragraphs 8 through 18 of General Assembly resolution 49/38 B.

60. Over the reporting period, the 68 United Nations information centres and services became, more than ever before, essential instruments in increasing public awareness of and support for the work of the Organization in its major fields of endeavour. United Nations information centres attracted media attention to the efforts and accomplishments of the United Nations by linking them to local issues whenever feasible. As media scrutiny intensified with the fiftieth anniversary observance, UNIC directors assumed greater responsibilities for presenting and maintaining a positive image of the Organization. At a special meeting at Geneva in January 1995, the Secretary-General urged directors of information centres to take action to counter erroneous reporting in the media and to respond directly to negative reports. In this regard, the Department developed a strategy by which UNIC directors can respond rapidly to negative press reports with guidance from Headquarters, in particular from the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General. Information centre directors have also personally briefed media representatives and have sought to make frequent personal appearances on radio and television programmes to respond to public queries or comments about the Organization and its work.

61. United Nations information centres have been instrumental in publicizing the Blue Books Series, working closely with the United Nations Sales Section to launch the series and help sustain long-term public interest and sales. Their strategies included identifying influential book reviewers, academics and journalists to publish in-depth articles in scholarly journals and in newspaper editorial and op-ed pages, organizing panel discussions, displaying the books prominently at book fairs and, in one instance, translating one volume into the local language.

62. United Nations information centres have succeeded in broadening public awareness of the issues before the United Nations and its major international conferences, achieving significant gains in national media coverage and within selected target audiences. The provision of funds to the centres from conference budgets, as well as from budgets of United Nations system partners such as UNDP and UNFPA, have enabled many information centres to strengthen information activities and develop more dynamic approaches to promoting the conferences. In addition, through the establishment of creative partnerships with non-governmental organizations and other redisseminators, including regional media and national media women's groups in such cities as La Paz, Madrid and Maseru, some centres were able to increase their outreach with the publication and distribution of dossiers on issues prior to major United Nations conferences.

63. Many United Nations information centres have initiated, planned and developed educational and youth-oriented programmes in cooperation with UN50 national committees, ministries of education, United Nations associations,

non-governmental organizations and educational institutions in preparation for the global teach-in scheduled for October 1995. In addition to the holding of seminars and symposia, information centres have increased the number of model United Nations programmes undertaken in cooperation with local high schools and universities. UNIC staff have also stepped up speaking appearances in schools and are cooperating with faculties in the development of educational programmes focusing on the Organization's main areas of concern.

64. To date, 16 United Nations information centres have been integrated with UNDP field offices, on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the respective host Governments, with a view to achieving economies through sharing of common services and projecting a unified image of the Organization at the country level.

65. As requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 13 of its resolution 49/38 B, continuing consultations with the Government of Poland led to the opening of a United Nations information office at Warsaw in August 1995. The premises, located within the UNDP office, were inaugurated by the Assistant Secretary-General. Currently, public information activities are carried out by UNDP staff, pending the recruitment of a local-level information officer and a reference librarian.

66. In accordance with paragraph 14 of the same resolution, and in order to better serve German audiences and their information needs, a national information officer has been appointed at Bonn, working under the supervision of the Director of the United Nations Information Service at Vienna.

67. Special efforts have been made to provide the libraries of United Nations information centres with up-to-date documentation covering all aspects of the Organization's work. Working closely with the Department of Public Information at Headquarters, UNIC libraries are fully equipped with United Nations bibliographic collections, including, in many instances, UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM. Forty-three information centres and field offices receive United Nations materials by electronic mail; 32 receive the same materials by fax. The upgrading of information centre facilities has resulted in improved communication with target audiences in the field and more rapid dissemination of information to the media.

68. During 1995, the Department organized training workshops for national officers and information assistants of United Nations information centres. In cooperation with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, a training and orientation workshop was held for reference assistants on technological innovations and electronic access to United Nations information. The Library also briefed newly appointed staff of United Nations information centres on information resources available at Headquarters.

VIII. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

69. The Department continues to work towards strengthening its professional cooperation with United Nations system partners, in particular the United Nations Development Programme at Headquarters and in the field. The Department arranges briefings on information policies and programmes and operational procedures of the information centres on a regular basis for newly appointed UNDP resident representatives and especially for those designated to serve as UNIC directors.

70. In cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and in compliance with General Assembly resolution 49/38, the Department continued its activities for the promotion of independent and pluralistic media. In the tradition of earlier seminars for the African region, held at Windhoek in 1991, for the Asian region, held at Alma Ata in 1992, and for the Latin American and Caribbean region, held at Santiago de Chile in 1994, the Department advanced the preparations for the convening of a seminar for the Arab region, scheduled to take place at Sana'a from 6 to 11 January 1996.

71. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has begun preparations to host the meeting of the Task Force on Inter-Library Cooperation, Standards and Management of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC), which includes all the specialized agencies, to be held in late October 1995. At a meeting held at Geneva on 31 January and 1 February 1995, the Library presented comprehensive material on issues related to the more effective use of technological innovations for cost-saving as well as for enhanced communication and cooperation by all users of information resources within the United Nations system. The Library maintains regular contacts with library staff of the specialized agencies to further cooperation in information management services within the United Nations system.

72. At its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 5 to 7 July 1995, the Joint United Nations Information Committee discussed the most current issues of common concern. In his address to the meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that information professionals of the United Nations system faced a very difficult challenge in trying to focus public attention on the Organization's work in the economic and social fields, where the bulk of its resources were employed. He pointed to the successful collaboration of JUNIC in the field of major United Nations conferences and to the benefits of strong inter-agency cooperation; he expressed his belief that increased effectiveness would result from a further streamlining of the JUNIC agenda and encouraged its members to use the annual meetings for focusing on a limited number of important information policy issues.

73. JUNIC agreed that the experience of a common information programme for the World Summit for Social Development should serve as an example of successful inter-agency cooperation in the future. In this connection, the Department of Public Information was commended for its work in coordinating the implementation of the information programme and its various elements. At the twenty-first session, the Committee recommended the appointment of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information as its chairman for 1996/97.

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

74. As a major contribution to the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Department issued a special edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations, in August, highlighting major achievements of the Organization, milestones and turning-points during its half-century of existence.

75. During the reporting period, United Nations information centres initiated and were instrumental in the creation of more than 80 UN50 national committees. As the designated focal points for the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in the countries they serve, information centres, in cooperation with the national committees, have mobilized diverse local constituencies and generated extensive media coverage for the observance of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. United Nations information centres have also developed partnerships with national teachers' organizations, networks, publishing houses, universities and educational institutions in organizing special commemorative programmes to deepen understanding of the United Nations and encourage teaching about the issues before the Organization at all academic levels.

76. The Department has produced and distributed, in English and in other languages, the "50th Anniversary UN Minutes", a series of television spots featuring global issues, events and personalities associated with the United Nations during its first 50 years. These spots are being broadcast widely and repeatedly in many countries through CNN and other television organizations. They are also being made available to educational institutions and for special screenings by United Nations information centres. The "UN Minutes", together with another programme entitled "UN Facts", have been broadcast by more than 30 major television organizations world wide in local language adaptations, where necessary, including broadcasters in Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.

77. In cooperation with CNN and CNN International, staff members of the Department hosted and co-anchored a two-hour special CNN World Report, which was broadcast internationally on 24 June 1995 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco. In addition, the Department provided editorial, production and distribution support for "A Place to Stand", a video overview of United Nations history and achievements, in the six official languages.

78. The Media Division has also prepared a series of 12 video compilations on the history of the United Nations on issues such as women, peace-keeping, international law, the environment and refugees. An audio compilation of sound-bites of the United Nations Secretaries-General was also prepared. These audiovisual compilations were produced to meet the extraordinary demand by radio and video producers, as well as by broadcasters world wide, who are preparing documentaries on the history of the United Nations. The video compilations have been sold to 37 major broadcasters in Germany, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. They were also distributed

to United Nations offices in the field as well as to United Nations associations and UN50 national committees. The Division's Photo Unit has prepared a catalogue of historical and thematic photos marking 50 years of United Nations history.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/50/21).

Annex

MAJOR DPI ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 49/38 B OF 9 DECEMBER 1994

(JANUARY-AUGUST 1995)

	I. INSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATIONS	DPI No.
1	Yearbook of the United Nations - Special Edition UN Fiftieth Anniversary 1945-1995, released in English in August	E.95.1.50
2	An Agenda for Development, with Related UN Documents (book), released in six official languages in February	1622
3	An Agenda for Peace, with the New Supplement and Related UN Documents (book), released in six official languages in February	1623
4	Basic Facts about the United Nations (book), released in English, French and Spanish in March	1224
5	Notes for Speakers - The UN at 50 (booklet), released in English in July	1698
6	United Nations in Brief - new edition (booklet), released in English in June	1223/Rev.2
7	UN Chronicle (magazine), vol. XXXII, Nos. 1 and 2, released in six official languages between January and June	
8	A Guide to Information at the United Nations (booklet), released in English and French in March	1444
9	About the United Nations, a series of backgrounders in the form of a kit, released in English in July	1669
10	Public International Law: A Selective Bibliography (multilingual booklet), released in March	ST/LIB/Ser.B/40
11	Dag Hammarskjöld Library Services (brochure), released in Arabic, English, French and Spanish in February	ST/LIB/41
12	United Nations Documentation: A Brief Guide, released in six official languages in August	ST/LIB/34/Rev.2
13	Instructions to Depository Libraries, released in Arabic, English, Russian and Spanish in April	ST/LIB/13/Rev.5
14	UNBIS Thesaurus, released in English in May	ST/LIB/40/Rev.1
15	Information Guide on Services to the Public (reference paper), released in English in March	1598
16	DPI/NGO Link (monthly newsletter), released in English	

	II. BLUE BOOKS SERIES	DPI No.
1	The United Nations and Cambodia, 1991-1995, released in English in February and in French in March	1450
2	The United Nations and El Salvador, 1990-1995, released in English in March and in Spanish in April	1475
3	The United Nations and Apartheid, 1948-1994, released in French in April and in Arabic in May	1568
4	The United Nations and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, released in English and French in March	1628
5	The United Nations and Mozambique, 1992-1995, released in English in May and in French in August	1675
6	The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1995, released in Chinese and English in August	1679
7	The United Nations and Human Rights, 1945-1995, released in French in August	1676

III. PUBLICATIONS ON THEMATIC ISSUES	DPI No.
A. Advancement of women	
1 Notes for Speakers - The Advancement of Women (booklet), released in English in May	1674
2 Press kit on Fourth World Conference on Women, released in English, French and Spanish in July, containing: (1) "Women and Poverty", (2) "Literacy and Education", (3) "Women's Health", (4) "Women in the Global Economy", (5) "Violence against Women", (6) "Women and the Environment", (7) "Politics and Decision-making", (8) "The Girl Child", (9) "Human Rights", (10) "War and Peace", (11) "Sources for Fact Sheets", (12) Biographical note of Secretary-General of the Conference Gertrude Mongella, (13) "AIDS: No Longer a Man's Disease", (14) "Wanted: More Women Journalists", (15) "Forging Peace in War's Fire", (16) "Girls Shoulder Women's Burden", (17) "Putting Violence on Trial", (18) "Economic Reforms: 'Triple Jeopardy' for Women", (19) Charts and photographs	1715/Wom
Backgrounders and feature articles on women's issues	
3 "Literacy: Key to Women's Empowerment" (revised version), released in English, French and Spanish in February	1567/Rev.1
4 "Women and the Media", released in English, French and Spanish in February	1656
5 "The Girl Child", released in English, French and Spanish in May	1658
6 "Measuring Women's Unpaid Work", released in English, French and Spanish in April	1659
7 "Women and Economic Decision-making", released in English, French and Spanish in April	1671
8 "The UN and the Status of Women", released in English, French and Spanish in May	1672
9 "Refugee Women", released in English, French and Spanish in May	1691
10 "Women and the Environment", released in English, French and Spanish in April	1692
11 "Conference to set Women's Agenda into Next Century", released in English, French and Spanish in June	1424/Rev.1
12 "Violence against Women" released in English, French and Spanish in January	1595
13 "The NGO Forum on Women", released in English, French and Spanish in February	1615
14 "Portraits of Hope", released in English, French and Spanish in February	1636
15 "Fourth World Conference on Women - Fact Sheet No. 5", released in English, French and Spanish in March	1657
16 Women Investing in the Future (book), released in English, French and Spanish in January	1513

III. PUBLICATIONS ON THEMATIC ISSUES	DPI No.
B. Economic and social development	
1 Development Update (bimonthly newsletter), Nos. 7-10, released in English between January and August	1452
2 Notes for Speakers - Social Development (booklet), released in English in January	1625
3 "World Economic and Social Survey", press kit in conjunction with high-level segment of ECOSOC, released in English and French in June	1713
4 Development Business (bimonthly periodical), Nos. 405-422, produced in English between January and August	
5 Information kit in sustainable development, containing background/feature articles:	
(1) "UN Convention on Desertification", produced in French and Spanish in January	SD/1576
(2) "Programme of Action for Small Island States", produced in English in January and in French in March	SD/1609
(3) "UN Conference on Fisheries Aims to Finalize Agreement", produced in English in March	SD/1883
(4) "Legal Agreement on High Seas Fishing Nears Completion", produced in English in April	SD/1885
(5) "Update on Desertification Convention", produced in English in January	1624
6 Briefing papers on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development consisting of:	
(1) "Convention on Desertification", released in English, French and Spanish in February	1576
(2) "Information Notes", Nos. 1-6, released in English in February	1660-1665
(3) "UN Commission on Earth Summit Expected to Call for Panel on Forests", released in English in April	1690
(4) "UN Commission on Earth Summit Sets Up Panel to Assess Need for Forest Agreement", released in English in April	1699
7 "Agenda 21", reprint, released in English in February	1344
8 "Agenda 21", reprint of popular version, released in French in June	SD/1298
9 "Rio Declaration", reprint, released in French and Spanish in May	SD/1299
10 "Action 93" and "Action 94", briefing papers on the implementation of Agenda 21, released in English in February	SD/1616 SD/1617

III. PUBLICATIONS ON THEMATIC ISSUES	DPI No.
C. Peace and security	
Backgrounders and feature articles on peace-keeping and international security	
1 "The United Nations and the Situation in Somalia", released in English in April	1321/Rev.4
2 "The United Nations and the Situation in Liberia", released in English in April	1697
3 "The United Nations and the Situation in Georgia", released in English in April	1963
4 "Iraq-Kuwait Resolutions", released in Arabic in April (English in December 1994)	1104/Rev.5
5 "The United Nations and the Situation in Tajikistan", released in English and Russian in April	1685
6 "The United Nations and the Situation in Rwanda", released in English in April	1484/Rev.1
7 "The United Nations and the Situation in Haiti", released in English and French in March	1668
8 "NPT Conference" (press kit), released in English and French in March	1654
9 "The United Nations and the Situation in Angola", released in English in February	1552/Rev.1
10 "The United Nations Peace-keeping Information Notes", released in English in February	1306/Rev.4
11 "Background Note on Peace-keeping Operations", released in English in January	1634
12 "The United Nations and the Situation in Former Yugoslavia", released in English in January; updates released in April and July	1312/Rev.2, 3, 4
13 Poster on peace-keeping, released in English, French and Spanish in May	1533
14 Peace-keeping: Answers at Your Fingertips (booklet), released in English in January	1600
D. Africa Recovery/New Agenda for the Development of Africa	
1 Africa Recovery (magazine), vol. IX, No. 1, released in English and French in June; vol. IX, No. 2, released in English in August	
2 Special Report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC on the Development of Africa (booklet), released in English in June	
3 Press releases on "Policy dialogue on African development" and on the "Role of the informal sector in Africa's development", issued in English in June	

	IV. QUESTION OF PALESTINE/SPECIAL INFORMATION PROGRAMME	DPI No.
1	Prerequisite for peace in the Middle East - An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue (book), released in English in March	1582
2	Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People in Field of Media Development, held from 23 to 31 March in Madrid (with UNESCO)	
3	Three special radio documentaries on the Middle East peace process, produced in Arabic, French and Spanish between January and May	
4	The United Nations and the Question of Palestine (booklet), released in Chinese, German and Russian in August	1481

	V. BRIEFINGS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
1	"United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s", held on 19 January
2	"Status of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", held on 26 January
3	"World Summit for Social Development", held on 2 February
4	"Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Development Activities", held on 9 February
5	"The 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", held on 16 February
6	"In Commemoration of the United Nations Year for Tolerance", held on 23 February
7	"In Commemoration of International Women's Day", held on 2 March
8	"The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", held on 9 March
9	"The Russian Federation and the United Nations Peace-keeping Operations", held on 16 March
10	"The Role of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia", held on 23 March
11	"Report on: 'An Agenda for Development 1995'", held on 30 March
12	"The World Summit for Social Development: An Update", held on 6 April
13	"The Relationships between the UN Secretariat and the NGOs", held on 13 April
14	"Follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", held on 20 April
15	"The United Nations at Fifty", held on 27 April
16	"UN War Crimes Tribunal", held on 4 May
17	"Commemoration of the Day of the African Child", held on 11 May
18	"1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", held on 18 May
19	"The Open-ended Review on Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations", held on 25 May
20	"International Conference on Mine Clearance", held on 1 June
21	"In Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations Charter", held on 8 June

VI. VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

1 TV spot for the Fourth World Conference on Women, produced and distributed in the six official languages in June

2 "UN in Action", 30 three-to-five minute videos, and 9 three-to-five minute videos on women's issues produced and distributed in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish between January and August

3 "A Place to Stand", a 12-minute video on the United Nations's fiftieth anniversary, co-produced with Worldlink in English and distributed in June

4 "UN Minute", 28 video compilations on the history and achievements of the United Nations, produced and distributed in English between May and August

5 "UN Facts", eight 30-second TV spots consisting of questions and answers in connection with UN50, produced between March and August in English

6 "No Place to Hide", a 30-minute video documentary on An Agenda for Peace, produced in English in June

7 "Toil and Trouble" a 30-minute documentary on key issues of the Social Summit, produced in Arabic, English, French and Spanish in February

8 "World Chronicle", TV programme on major issues before the United Nations, Nos. 577-594, produced and distributed between January and August

VII. SPECIAL RADIO FEATURE PROGRAMME/SERIES

1 Series of five radio programmes on Social Summit, in 15 languages, produced and distributed

2 Series of six radio programmes on Law of the Sea Convention, in six official languages and other language adaptations, produced and distributed

3 Series of 10 radio programmes in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 15 languages, produced and distributed

4 Special weekly radio news programmes on United Nations peace-keeping in the former Yugoslavia, in English and adaptations in other languages, produced and distributed

5 Fifty-six radio reports on peace-keeping, in English and adaptations in other languages, produced and distributed

6 Four radio programmes on disarmament, produced and distributed in English

	VIII. OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES	Quantity
1	Press releases produced and distributed in English and French	3 264
2	Radio news magazines produced and distributed in the official languages and in nine other languages	560
3	Radio features/documentary magazines produced and distributed in the official languages and in nine other languages	805
4	"World in Review" radio programmes produced and distributed in English	28
5	Radio telephone feeds transmitted in six official languages and in Portuguese	3 207
6	Audio cassettes and taped radio programmes distributed	133 141
7	Edited TV news packages produced and distributed	1 104
8	Photos of meetings and events produced and distributed	7 918
9	Permanent accreditations of correspondents processed at Headquarters	3 045
10	Temporary accreditations of correspondents processed at Headquarters	3 068
11	Accreditations of correspondents processed for Social Summit	3 394
12	Participants in the guided tours in Headquarters	269 706
13	Requests met for recordings from the audio library	3 961
14	Requests met for recordings from the visual library	1 090
15	Requests met for TV material and copies of tapes	360
16	Requests met for cassette dubbing	6 450
17	Requests met from the photo library	1 512
18	Bookings of studios at other TV access facilities (in-house services and accredited broadcasters)	1 660
19	Titles of publications/documents transmitted electronically to users worldwide (until July 1995)	3 186
20	Electronic access to UNBIS at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library	14 497
21	Copies of publications/documents transmitted by pouch to users world wide (until July 1995)	2 327 577
22	News items transmitted exclusively for news agencies of developing countries	216
23	Loans processed by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library	73 919
24	Queries answered by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library	57 406
25	Applications for new accreditations of NGOs completed	47
26	Visitors to NGO Resource Centre	1 548
27	Group briefings organized by the Group Programme Unit	803
28	Queries from the public answered by the Public Inquiries Unit at Headquarters	48 500

	VIII. OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES	Quantity
29	Acquisitions of United Nations system archival material and external publications	147 704
30	Materials photocopied for DHL users	406 394
31	Exchange arrangements by DHL with institutions worldwide	1 215
32	Requests met for graphic files (reproductions of United Nations and other logos, conference graphics etc.; copies of graphics on diskette) for NGOs, groups outside the United Nations and United Nations offices	60